

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

March 7, 2016

The Honorable Peter Neffenger
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
601 12th St. S
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Neffenger,

I write today to express serious concerns regarding recent reports highlighting the significant delays and long wait lines Minnesotans are enduring at the TSA security checkpoints of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). The average number of people per flight rose from 75 in 2010 to 91 in 2015 and as more travelers have had to pass through the TSA security checkpoints more pressure has been put on the TSA. Unfortunately, after a recent reconfiguration of the security checkpoints at MSP, wait times have reached almost 60 minutes. That is unacceptable.

Because MSP is vital to the Minnesota economy, it is essential that the airport operates at maximum efficiency. MSP has long has been held to a high standard for its commitment to short security wait lines. Minnesotans should be able to travel without the fear that they'll miss their flights due to especially long security lines.

The TSA has officially stated that the long security lines are due to insufficient staffing at MSP. Therefore, I respectfully request that you address any staffing deficiencies at MSP in order to reduce the wait times at TSA security checkpoints. I look forward to hearing what other steps TSA will take following your upcoming visit to MSP.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to working with you to address this matter as quickly as possible, because Minnesotans—from our families to business travelers—deserve better. They deserve an efficient, operational airport that screens passengers in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator